

OFFICE OF FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TODAY'S FAMILY **LEARNING TIP***

April

- 1 Happy April Fools' Day! Encourage your child to research the interesting history of April Fools' Day traditions in countries across the world. Start here: www.infoplease.com/spot/aprilfools1.html
- 2 April is Volunteer Month! Search for ways that your family can lend a helping hand in your community. BCPS can help -- www.bcps.org/community/volunteer_info/
- 3 Eat a healthy breakfast every day! Have your children compare nutrition labels among breakfast cereals in your pantry and choose the healthiest cereal. For tips, look here: www.fda.gov/Food/IngredientsPackagingLabeling/LabelingNutrition/ucm274593.htm
- 4 Now is the time to talk about summer plans. Ask your children about their interests, then try to include them in your decisions about camps and activities.
- 5 Review your family's eating and exercise habits. Read nutrition labels. Work with your children to create a regular workout routine.
- 6 Pioneer teacher and humanitarian Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross after the Civil War. Talk to your children about safety plans in case of a disaster. The Red Cross can help -- www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family
- 7 World Health Day celebrates the 1948 founding of the World Health Organization. Last year's theme was food safety. What is this year's theme? Help your child find out! https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Health_Day
- 8 How many people can a school bus hold? Have your child combine his or her addition and multiplication skills to find out! Be sure to count the driver!
- 9 In honor of Earth Day this month, create a plan to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Why is it important to conserve the Earth's natural resources? Brainstorm ideas with your child!
- 10 The first Indianapolis 500 car race was held in 1911. How fast did the cars go back then? How fast do they travel today? Ask your children if they know! Check their knowledge here: www.indianapolismotorspeedway.com/events/indy500
- 11 Read a newspaper – including the editorial section – with your child. Talk about different styles of writing and determine what is fact and what is opinion.

*For additional ideas and daily parent tips, visit the [Maryland State Department of Education Family Literacy Take 15 Web page](#). Click on English or Spanish to view the tips.

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- 12 Vancouver is Canada's third-largest city. Have your child find Vancouver on a map. What two cities in Canada are bigger? Check here: www.geonames.org/CA/largest-cities-in-canada.html
- 13 Annapolis is a great place to visit, but the city was not the first capital of Maryland. Does your child know what was the state's first capital city? Check out Maryland history here: <http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/homepage/html/mdhistory.html>
- 14 Invite your child to help around the house. Use math while measuring, and introduce new words as you work together.
- 15 American playwright Tennessee Williams was born in Mississippi in 1911. Can your children name some of his famous plays? Look up more about him at www.biography.com/people/tennessee-williams-9532952.
- 16 On April 16, the former British colonies in the United States and Caribbean celebrate Emancipation Day. How many of the British colonies can your child name? For more about Emancipation Day, check out: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emancipation_Day
- 17 When traveling, encourage your children to read the letters on license plates and create words with the letters. Keep score by assigning one point per letter.
- 18 In 1965, Maj. Edward White became the first U.S. astronaut to walk in space. Who was the first astronaut to walk on the moon? Learn about the first moon landing at www.nasa.gov/content/former-astronauts-recall-historic-first-moon-landing.
- 19 Happy National Library Workers Day! Have your children visit your local library and say "thank-you" -- but not too loud! -- to all the librarians and library helpers there. Your children can check out books while they are there, too!
- 20 Today is Volunteer Recognition Day! Encourage your children to thank the volunteers in your community.
- 21 Giving high-fives is a great way to show dedication to a team. Have your children give high-fives to their fellow Team BCPS members for National High-Five Day! www.nationalhighfiveproject.org/
- 22 Happy Earth Day! Celebrate with your children by planting a tree in your backyard or by cleaning up litter in your community. Learn more about Earth Day here: www.earthday.org/

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- 23 In 1953, Elizabeth II became Queen of England at the age of 27. Ask your child what laws he or she would create if he or she ruled a country. For more about Queen Elizabeth II, look here: www.royal.gov.uk/hmthequeen/hmthequeen.aspx
- 24 In 1849, Elizabeth Blackwell was the first woman to graduate from medical school and became a pioneer in medicine. Learn about prominent female scientists here: <http://womenshistory.about.com/od/airspacesciencemath/tp/Famous-Women-Scientists.htm>
- 25 Help your child learn multiples and multiplication facts by creating catchy mathematical songs together!
- 26 Play with words: Pick five or ten random words from a newspaper or magazine article. Use those words to create stories and poems with your children. Then, compare masterpieces!
- 27 April 27 is Administrative Professionals Day! What are some of the job responsibilities of an administrative professional? Would your child like to be an administrative professional? https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrative_Professionals%27_Day
- 28 Create a potluck menu: Each family member chooses and prepares a favorite dish. Research the nutritional value of each item.
- 29 National Arbor Day celebrates the importance of planting and caring for trees. Ask your child's principal about hosting a tree-planting day at his or her school today! Learn more here: <https://www.arborday.org/>
- 30 Dutch artist Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn was born in 1606. He was known for his self-portraits. Have your children draw portraits of themselves! Learn more about Rembrandt at www.rembrandtpainting.net/.

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